

OPERATIONS COORDINATING BOARD  
Washington 25, D.C.

April 25, 1956

MEMORANDUM OF MEETING: Working Group - Committee on Broadcasting and  
Television (COBAT); 13th Meeting held 2 p.m. April 23

WORKING GROUP MEMBERS PRESENT:

USIA - Robert E. Button, Chairman  
Frederick A. Long (alternate)  
State - T. H. E. Nesbitt (TPIB Chairman)  
CIA - Representative  
OCB - Ralph Busick  
Marjorie Denny

1. The minutes of the April 16th meeting were adopted as written.
2. COBAT's Report and Recommendations Concerning Television in Europe, which has been revised in accordance with the Board Assistants' suggestions (3/30/56) was agreed to in final form for OCB distribution.
3. The Staff Representative distributed a draft paper (for the Board Assistants) requesting approval of an on-the-spot survey of European TV. Discussion was held as to possible officers available to conduct this survey; the possibility of conducting the study through the OEEC; the advisability of waiting until after the EBU meeting to be held in May. It was agreed the approved project paper should be circulated to U.S. missions in Europe for their information and assistance in accomplishing the survey. The draft was adopted by those present; copies were sent to the Defense and ICA representatives; and final clearance will be accomplished by telephone before distribution is made to the Board Assistants.
4. Action on the Libya project was deferred until the next meeting when the ICA representative will be present.
5. The State Department representative informed the Committee that, according to a recent despatch from Cairo, the Egyptian Broadcasting System had advertised for Egyptians speaking Arabic, Urdu, Swahili, Amharic, Tigre and Somali among other languages; this recruiting for East African language experts was indicative of the direction broadcasting might be taking, and should be considered in U.S. planning.
6. A recent cable from Ankara (No. 1687, April 10) stressing support of Moscow's objectives provided by such indigenous radios as Cairo's Voice of the Arabs, was next discussed. This message proposed utilization of U.S. excess, high-powered transmitters to combat anti-Western, anti-Baghdad Pact propaganda directed toward Arab and African target areas. The Committee noted that if the U.S. is to increase its present efforts to make maximum use of the broadcasting facilities of friendly Free World countries, then the furnishing of technical facilities and advice to the Baghdad Pact nations is indicated at this time. The particular need for a Radio Officer in Baghdad was noted.

SECRET

7. The Committee noted recent UNESCO operations in the TV field as evidences of Soviet interest in using this medium as a tool of external policy; with the assistance of UNESCO, Costa Rica will soon inaugurate a TV station; and UNESCO is at present organizing an international TV film pool for contribution by all members of UNESCO. Discussion was held as to who should be the U.S. representatives at the Paris meeting in June on this project.

8. The next meeting will be held Monday, April 30th, 2 P.M. at OCB.



Ralph R. Busick  
Staff Representative